



Early education. Lifelong success.

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President's Message



Dear Friends:

During National Family Engagement Month, we would like to give a special thanks to all of the partners, readers, families, and children who participated in Read for the Record. Reading is an opportunity for families to bond and increase communication skills. It cements a parent's role as first teacher and provides lifelong benefits. Each year, the Early Learning Coalition joins the Jumpstart Read for the Record Campaign to encourage families and child care providers to take advantage of the numerous benefits of reading and increase access to books. This year was another a successful year.

We distributed 3,655 books and had 10,196 readers across Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. We partnered with the [Miami Book Fair](#), History Miami, the City of North Miami Police Department, the Institute of Contemporary Arts, Miami and many more. We now prepare for the [Miami Book Fair](#), and invite you to bring your child and explore the wealth of children's books available to foster your child's love of reading. As part of our continuing promotion of early literacy, we have partnered with Miami-Dade Transit to encourage families to Read and Ride public transportation to the Book Fair.

In Monroe County, the 36th Annual Children's Day at Bayview Park was a great success. There were nearly 900 children at this year's event. All funds raised during this family-fun event serve children's organizations in Monroe County.

The Early Learning Coalition and Save the Children have entered a [partnership](#) to help those early childcare programs heavily impacted by Hurricane Irma. Through a generous grant from Save the Children, those programs and centers most heavily impacted, specifically in Monroe County will receive assistance. We thank Save the Children for their commitment to children and are optimistic about the difference it will make in helping childcare providers and families return to normalcy.

Early Head Start is expanding. For those of you who are interested in becoming an Early Head Start site and have centers or programs located in the zip codes of 33054, 33147 or 33017, [be sure to apply](#).

Please also join us to [Unplug & Connect](#) as a part of this month's National Family Engagement Month if you have not already.

As always, we thank you for your partnership and encourage you to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) for up-to-date information on programs and events.

Sincerely,



Evelio C. Torres
President & CEO

Teacher of the Month (October)

As a part of our continuous commitment to quality early learning programs, we would like to highlight the Quality Counts Teacher of the Month. Working in conjunction with our program partners, Florida International University, the United Way, Family Central and Children's Forum, we highlight instructors who have been recognized for applying excellence in the classroom. This month, we recognize Vilma Gonzalez from Village of Allapattah YMCA Preschool. She has more than 16 years of experience in early education. Congratulations Vilma Gonzalez.




QUALITY COUNTS
Striving for High Quality Early Learning



Teacher Spotlight:
October

Vilma Gonzalez



Classroom Age Group
16
Number of Years in Early Education

Ms. Gonzalez emanates positivity. Her radiant smile and welcoming singing create a safe, inviting atmosphere as soon as parents and children enter the door to her classroom. She understands that it is important to meet the individual needs of each child not only intellectually, but socially and emotionally as well. No matter what their learning language is, she finds dynamic ways to encourage child-lead activities that help her students reach their fullest potential. Ms. Gonzalez is not only a role model in the classroom, but a leader in the program. Her motto for everyone is, "It's never too late to continue your education because you can make a difference at any age for future generations to come."

Quality Counts would like to recognize and thank Vilma Gonzalez for her commitment to quality early childhood education!

In Early Education News



Featured Article: [More than 10K Miami-Dade/ Monroe Children Exposed to Joys of Reading](#)

The Early Learning Coalition takes part in a number of initiatives to promote reading, access to books and spur early literacy. Through extensive community outreach, the Early Learning Coalition distributes thousands of books throughout Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties each year. Working with partners to spread the good word of reading every day, some of our yearly hallmark reading events are: Read for the Record, the Miami Book Fair, and Literacy Week.

As we prepare for this year's Miami Book Fair. We restate the great benefits of reading which not only builds literacy, but imperative social-emotional skills. For more about the numerous benefits of reading, click this link [Reading Aloud with Children of All Ages](#).

- If a child reads for 20 minutes every day, they are exposed to about 1.8 million words of text every year. That is 137 new words per minute!
- If families read together for 20 minutes a day, 7 days a week, they get more than 121 hours of bonding time every year!

Board Chair, Adrian Alfonso Reads for the Record with his daughters at the BKB Moms, Annual School Fair.



City of North Miami Police Interim Chief, Larry Juriga Reads for the Record!





Reading is Bonding Time! So Unplug and Connect and Talk, Read, Sing Every Day!



Early Learning Coalition Program Information and Updates

- [Early Learning Coalition and Save the Children Partnership](#)
- [Salary and Benefits Survey of Early Childhood Education Providers](#)
- [Child Care Executive Partnership](#)
- [Children's Day at Bayview Park, Key West](#)
- [Monroe Provider Orientation Schedule](#)
- [Become an Early Head Start Site](#)
- [Children's Week: Hanging of the Hands](#)
- [Journey of Hope Workshop](#)
- [2018 Master Class Series: Business Leadership Institute for Early Learning](#)
- [Health and Safety Provider Pointers](#)

Professional Development Institute

[Professional Development Institute Trainings](#)

Upcoming Events

[Family Fun Night- Santa's Enchanted Forest](#)

[Miami International Children's Film Festival](#)

[History Miami Free Family Fun Day](#)

[Christmas Bazaar at Talents Unleashed](#)

[Children's Holiday at Miami Dade College North Campus](#)

[A Barry Special Christmas at Barry University](#)

[Free Kids Workshop at Home Depot](#)

[Toddler Storytime at Palmetto Bay](#)

[Storytime at North Miami Library with Mayor Dr. Smith Joseph](#)

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